



SOCIETY
FOR THE
PROTECTION
OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS

54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH
03301-5400

Phone: 603/224-9945
Fax: 603/228-0423
info@spnhf.org
www.spnhf.org

SEP 10 2002

September 5, 2002

MaryAnn Manoogian
Director
Governor's Office of Energy & Community Services
57 Regional Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Manoogian:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments on the draft of the New Hampshire Energy Plan.

As you know, SPNHF's mission is to promote the wise use of our forests and their conservation in places of special scenic beauty or environmental importance. Energy policy intersects with this mission in many ways, but the two most important may be the use of low-grade forest resources as an abundant and renewable energy resource, and the impact that air pollution from combustion of fossil fuels is having on overall forest health and climate change.

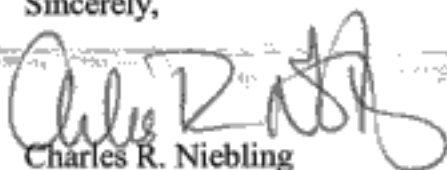
SPNHF believes that New Hampshire's energy future must include diverse, clean and sustainable energy sources such as biomass and other renewables. We are pleased that the energy plan will explore the challenges facing our biomass plants, as well as potential new renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. We would urge the state to make a commitment to purchase a percentage of its electricity from renewable sources, through a mechanism such as a renewable portfolio standard or a green purchasing commitment for the state's own power use.

SPNHF also believes that the cleanest, cheapest power plant is the one we do not have to build, and therefore supports the plan's focus on seizing energy efficiency opportunities in our state. We recommend that the state continue ratepayer funding for energy efficiency programs, and expand the current programs beyond the end of 2003 to allow the state to successfully move toward market-based efficiency programs. We would also urge the state to set an aggressive efficiency goal for all state buildings, expand the BECI program, and serve as a model for the private sector while saving precious tax dollars.

Lastly, while we recognize that transportation was not included in the legislation creating the energy plan, we applaud ECS for bringing the significant growth in our state's transportation energy use to our attention. This is clearly an area for future planning and discussion. This has very important implications to reducing air emissions that are contributing to forest health problems throughout our region.

Thank you for undertaking this important planning effort, and for bringing together diverse stakeholders to discuss these issues. We look forward to continuing to discuss these issues as we prepare for New Hampshire's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Charles R. Niebling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles R. Niebling
Senior Director, Policy and Land Management